

Message Text

SECRET

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R 261834Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7891
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T PARIS 07688

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER FROM AMBASSADOR RUSH

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECDEF, USNMR SHAPE, AND
USDOCOSOUTH

E.O. 11652 XGDS3
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN THE SOUTHERN REGION
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, FR.

REF: USNATO 1220

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: I SUPPORT AMBASSADOR BRUCE'S
RECOMMENDATION FOR A RAPID, COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF
OUR POLICY ALONG NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK. THE FRENCH
SHARE MANY OF THE PERCEPTIONS IN REFTEL. ONCE WE
UNDERSTAND MORE CLEARLY THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO US,
WE SHOULD CONSULT FULLY AND FRANKLY WITH OUR ALLIES --
AT NATO AND BILATERALLY AS APPROPRIATE -- ON FUTURE

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MOVES. A CREATIVE IMPULSE TO MEET THE GROWING THREAT

TO THE SECURITY OF NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK IS MORE
LIKELY TO SUCCEED NOW THAN LATER. END SUMMARY.

2. IN READING AMBASSADOR BRUCE'S MESSAGE (REFTEL),
I WAS STRUCK BY THE SIMILARITY BETWEEN HIS DESCRIPTION
OF THE UNCERTAIN FUTURE ON NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK,
AND FRENCH PERCEPTIONS OF THAT PROBLEM. IN MY TALKS
WITH TOP FRENCH POLITICAL LEADERS, I HAVE NOTED A
RECURRING PREOCCUPATION WITH THE CHALLENGES POSED BY
THE EVOLVING POLITICAL SCENES IN PORTUGAL, SPAIN,
ITALY, YUGOSLAVIA, GREECE AND TURKEY. THE FRENCH
ARE NO MORE CONFIDENT THAN WE ARE THAT -- LEFT TO
ITSELF -- NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK CAN WEATHER TODAY'S
PROBLEMS, LET ALONE THE INSTABILITIES THAT THE FUTURE
PROMISES. THE FRENCH WOULD LIKE TO SEE "EUROPE"
PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN MEETING THIS UNCERTAIN FUTURE,
BUT REALISTICALLY UNDERSTAND THAT THE CREATIVE
IMPULSE TO MEET THE PROBLEM OF THE SOUTHERN FLANK
MUST COME FROM U.S. LEADERSHIP.

3. IN PORTUGAL, WE SEE ALREADY HOW QUICKLY EVENTS
CAN MOVE IN UNPREDICTABLE AND WORRISOME DIRECTIONS.
THIS POTENTIAL FOR RAPID EVOLUTION OF SOUTHERN FLANK
INSTABILITY SUGGESTS THAT A CREATIVE IMPULSE BY THE
WEST DESIGNED TO MEET THE GROWING THREAT TO THE
SECURITY OF THAT FLANK IS MORE LIKELY TO SUCCEED NOW
THAN LATER.

4. I FULLY ENDORSE AMBASSADOR BRUCE'S CALL FOR
A THOROUGH REVIEW OF U.S. AND ALLIANCE POLITICAL/
MILITARY STRATEGY IN THE AREA.
RUSH

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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NNN

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